

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS on page 5, lines 2-17 as follows:

FIG. 1 illustrates an exploded view of the Safety AVF needle according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 illustrates a winged sheath according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3a illustrates a PC hub with a pair of flexible extension arms in a pre-assembled state according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 3b illustrates a PC hub with a pair of flexible extension arms in an assembled state according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 4 illustrates a cannulation procedure of the Safety AVF needle according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 5 illustrates a view showing an orientation of a cannula bevel according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 6 illustrates a retraction procedure of the Safety AVF needle according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7a illustrates a side view of the Safety AVF needle according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7b illustrates a side view of the Safety AVF needle according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7c illustrates a top view of the Safety AVF needle according to an embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 7d illustrates ~~multiple views~~ a top view of the Safety AVF needle according

to an embodiment of the present invention; [[and]]

FIG. 8a illustrates a prior art intravenous butterfly needle; and

FIG. 8b illustrates a prior art intravenous butterfly needle.

**Please amend the paragraph starting on page 1, line 17 as follows:**

Winged intravenous (IV) sets are well known in the art. A typical prior art IV butterfly needle used for the insertion into blood vessels and similar passageways in the body to permit the infusion or withdrawal of sterile fluids or blood is illustrated in FIG. 8a and FIG. 8b. The butterfly needle generally has a hollow needle or cannula 30, a cylindrical hub 20 holding the needle 30 at one end and connected to an IV tube 52 at the opposite end, and a cylindrical housing 10 surrounding the needle with a wing-like extension 50 extending on each side thereof.

**Please amend the paragraph starting on page 7, line 22 as follows:**

The first releasable locking mechanism will now be described according to embodiments of the present invention. Referring to Fig. 2, Fig. 3a, Fig. 3b, and Figs. 7a-7d the winged sheath 130 may have a front linear groove 132 located on the interior surface at the distal end that may accept the tips 116 of the flexible extension arms 115 of the PC hub 110, may allow for 360 degree rotation of the PC hub 110 with the attached extension arms 115 within the winged sheath 130, and may function as part of the first releasable locking mechanism. The flexible extension arms 115 of the PC hub 110 partially spring outward allowing the tips 116 of the flexible arms 115 to releasably seat in the front linear groove 132 (see Fig. 7a).

**Please amend the paragraph starting on page 10, line 19 as follows:**

The second releasable locking mechanism will now be described according to embodiments of the present invention. Referring to Fig. 2, Fig. 3a, Fig. 3b, and Figs.

7a-7d the winged sheath 130 has a slot 133 located through the interior/exterior surface and extending 2/3 of the circumference of the proximal end of the winged sheath 130. The slot 133 may accept the tips 116 of the flexible extension arms 115 of the PC hub 110 to provide for the second unreleasable locking mechanism. The flexible extension arms 115 of the PC hub 110 fully spring outward allowing the tips 116 to unreleasably seat in the slot 133 (see view 7d).

**Please amend the paragraph starting on page 12, line 1 as follows:**

Referring to Fig. 6 and Figs. 7a-7d, when the needle 120 is to be withdrawn, the locking tab 135 is disengaged and the PC hub 110/needle 120 are pulled in a proximal direction (releasing the tips 116 of the extension arms 115 from the front groove 132). PC hub 110/needle 120 are drawn proximally until the tips 116 of the flexible extension arms 115 are pulled to the proximal end of the sheath 130 wherein the tips 116 will fully spring outward and unreleasably seat in the slot 133. It should be noted that the locking tab 135 is used only for maintaining the locked relationship between the sheath 130 and PC hub 110 in the insertion position (see view 7a and view 7b) and not in the protection position (see view 7d).